

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00435 211924Z

ACTION ACDA-10

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R 211724Z JUL 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2322

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0435

NORORN

FROM US MBFR REPRESENTATIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: REMARKS OF SOVIET REP ON WESTERN DATA PROPOSAL

1. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION ON MARGIN OF PLENARY JULY 21, 1977, SOVIET DEP REP SHUSTOV MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON WESTERN DATA PROPOSAL:
2. THE SOVIET MILITARY WERE CONCERNED BY THE REQUIREMENT IN THE WESTERN PROPOSAL TO TABLE STRENGTHS OF INDIVIDUAL UNITS ACROSS THE BOARD. US DEP REP SAID HE BELIEVED TIMING OF WESTERN PROPOSAL WAS ADVANTAGEOUS IN THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NECESSARY IN ANY EVENT TO HAVE MAJOR UNIT BREAKDOWN AFTER TABLING NATIONAL DATA AND WARSAW PACT MILITARY WOULD HAVE MADE SAME PLAIN AT THAT TIME. THEREFORE, IT WAS ECONOMICAL AS REGARDS TIME FOR WARSAW TREATY AUTHORITIES TO CONSIDER DURING THE RECESS NEW WESTERN PROPOSAL TO GET OVERALL PROFILE OF DISCREPANCY THROUGH SINGLE SYSTEMATIC TABLING OF DATA. WESTERN PROPOSAL WOULD PROVIDE BOTH MAJOR UNIT TOTALS AND NATIONAL STRENGTHS EXCEPT FOR PERSONNEL OF MULTILATERAL STAFF WHICH WERE MINIMAL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00435 211924Z

3. SHUSTOV ONCE AGAIN FAILED TO COMMENT AT ALL ON MULTILATERAL STAFF. HE ASKED US DEP REP TO EXPLAIN TO HIM ONCE MORE US DEP REP'S REMARKS ON JULY 19 INFORMAL THAT EASTERN PROPOSAL TO PUT DOWN AVERAGE MANNING LEVELS WOULD NOT BE OF HELP IN IDENTIFYING SOURCES OF DISCREPANCY.
4. US DEP REP SAID WESTERN FIGURES WERE BASED ON ACTUAL

STRENGTHS OF MAJOR UNITS. IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF DISCREPANCY, WEST NEEDED EASTERN FIGURES ON THE SAME MAJOR UNITS. BROAD PROGRAMMATIC STATEMENTS ON MANNING LEVEL FOR ALL THE SOVIET OR ALL THE CZECHOSLOVAK GROUND FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA WOULD BE OF NO VALUE AT ALL. SHUSTOV SAID AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, THIS MEANT THAT IF MANNING LEVEL ISSUE SHOULD BE RAISED, IT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STRENGTHS OF MAJOR UNITS. BUT HOW COULD ONE DISCUSS THE MANNING LEVEL OF PERSONNEL IN THE SINGLE BASKET OF REMAINING PERSONNEL?

5. US DEP REP SAID ONE MIGHT HAVE TO DEVISE SOME METHOD FOR SPLITTING UP THIS BASKET AT SOME FUTURE POINT BUT THIS PROBABLY COULD BE DONE WITHOUT GOING INTO SMALLER UNITS. SHUSTOV SAID, AS HE UNDERSTOOD COMMENTS OF NATO REPS, EAST COULD ACCEPT WESTERN PROPOSAL TO TABLE DATA ON MAJOR UNITS WHILE REJECTING TABLING OF DATA ON DIVISIONS. US DEP REP CONFIRMED THIS UNDERSTANDING.

6. SHUSTOV ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT ON THE SIZE OF ONE OR MORE MAJOR UNITS. HOW FAR DOWN IN UNIT STRUCTURE WOULD THE WEST WISH TO PURSUE THE MATTER? US DEP REP SAID THERE WAS NO DECISION TO GO BELOW DIVISION LEVEL. HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE THAT, TOWARD THE END OF THE DATA DISCUSSION, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO CONFIRM SPECIFIC DETAILS TO GO TO THE NEXT LEVEL IN SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00435 211924Z

CASES WHERE CORROBORATION WAS NECESSARY, BUT THIS COULD BE AGREED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

7. SHUSTOV ASKED WHAT WOULD BE DONE IF FIGURES FOR STRENGTHS OF INDIVIDUAL MAJOR UNITS DID NOT AGREE. US DEP REP SAID WESTERN REPS WOULD ASK CORROBORATORY QUESTIONS AND FORM THEIR OPINION ON THE BASIS OF EASTERN RESPONSES TO INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER EAST HAD GIVEN OVERALL PLAUSIBLE RESPONSE.

8. SHUSTOV ASKED US DEP REP ABOUT ARTICLE IN FRG WEEKLY SPIEGEL REFERRING TO AN FRG CONCEPT OF EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS OF THE NUMBER OF TROOPS ON EACH SIDE ABOVE THE LEVEL OF AN AGREED COMMON CEILING. US DEP REP SAID HE HAD HEARD OF THIS IDEA BUT DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IT HAD ANY STATUS. DID SHUSTOV THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL? SHUSTOV COMMENTED HE DID NOT THINK THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE MUCH USE UNTIL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON BOTH SIDES. IT MIGHT HAVE SOME VALUE THEN.

9. SHUSTOV COMMENTED IN A GENERAL CONTEXT THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL IMPACT WHICH THE COOLING OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS MIGHT HAVE ON THE ATTITUDE OF SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIALS TOWARDS THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS AND THE

IDEA OF POSSIBLE SOVIET MOVES IN THEM. HE HAD NO REPEAT NO  
SPECIFIC INFORMATION OR INDICATIONS. HE MERELY THOUGHT IT  
WAS A POSSIBILITY WHICH COULD AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE TALKS.  
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